

# Forest Resources and Technologies (FOREST) Project

Cooperative Agreement Number 118-A-00-00-00119-00

## Quarterly Report

July 21, 2000 - September 30, 2000

*Submitted to*

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*Submitted by*

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## **I. Introduction**

Winrock International, in partnership with Chemonics, the Heron Group and the Russian American Educational Center was awarded the Forest Resources and Technology (FOREST) Project July 21, 2000. This five-year project which is based in Khabarovsk, Russia will be implemented July 2000 - July 2005, in Siberia and the Russia Far East. The major goals are to reduce the threat of global climate change and preserve biodiversity by promoting sustainable forest management and preserving Russian forests as a globally important carbon sink and critical habitat for rare and endangered species.

The FOREST project will achieve this goal by focusing on four technical components: forest fire prevention, pest management, non-timber forest products and secondary wood processing and renewable energy alternatives. In addition, three cross-cutting components, namely forest policy and legal reform; applied forestry research; and a forestry grant/loan Program will support the technical components.

This quarterly report describes the results to date compared to the planned tasks, key issues, problems/findings and a brief description of the tasks by the four technical components. In response to a cooperative agreement signed in July 21, 2000, Winrock submitted an Inception Plan early September 2000, describing start-up activities and plans to elaborate the project design and to prepare the detailed first year workplan. Accomplishments are based on the planned activities outlined in the Inception Report.

The first week of September, a team of 14 people from Winrock, Chemonics and the Heron Group traveled to Moscow, Khabarovsk, Krasnoyarsk, Sakhalin and Vladivostok to meet with USAID, set up the project office and implementation systems, and establish relationships with partners and collaborators.

Overall, the FOREST Team was able to successfully accomplish the activities described in the inception plan without any problems. The start-up activities of the first three months have gone extremely well. The major tasks of this quarter (July-September, 2000) were to initiate the project and prepare the draft workplan, and significant progress was made on both of these activities.

## **II. Project Administration**

FOREST Project activities have started quickly due to Winrock's already established presence in Khabarovsk. Key activities were accomplished because knowledgeable local staff were able to assist staff from HQ to take care of very basic, but essential start up activities. Winrock has initiated the process to register the FOREST Project with the help of USAID. Winrock has identified office space for the FOREST Project within the same building as other USAID Projects such as Ecolinks and the American Business Center, conveniently located in Khabarovsk. A six-month lease has been signed. Prior to the termination of this lease, Winrock's needs for space will be re-assessed.

#### **A. Logistics/Staffing**

Forest Project Office Policies and Procedures are being prepared and will include contract templates for consultants, partners and employees. This manual will guide all the processes of the office as per USAID regulations and Winrock policy. A draft will be completed by the end of November.

Khabarovsk based Winrock staff began working on the project immediately, on a part time basis. FOREST Project Senior Administrator and Winrock Representative, Nina Danilyuk currently works approximately 20% on the project. Winrock Accountant Natasha Marchenko is also working part-time on the FOREST Project, and will manage another newly hired accountant. Several drivers and vehicles have been identified.

Winrock interviewed three candidates for Project Manager and anticipate having a person on board by early November. More than 8 candidates have been interviewed for Deputy Project Manager. A few candidates are being considered, and a final decision will be made after the Project Manager has been hired. Carol Stoney will continue as Interim Project Manager until the full-time Project Manager is hired and at post.

The Russian American Education Center has reviewed the subagreement with Winrock and we expect to have this agreement signed by the end of November.

Laura Slattery, Chemonics Project Administrator has initiated the process to register Chemonics in Khabarovsk, and open a bank account. They have identified and hired two communications specialists initially on a short-term basis. They also have hired a part time accountant to manage their books.

#### **B. Advisory Council**

The Advisory Council will serve an important role in the FOREST Project planning by advising on activities, coordination and collaboration. Members of the Advisory Council will represent the technical and geographic areas within the scope of the project. The FOREST Team decided to establish the core Advisory Council membership for the first few months of project design. This core group was designated to review the draft workplan and to determine whether additional Advisory Council members are needed to represent certain areas of expertise or other types of organizations.

During a joint meeting with USAID, the FOREST Team and Mr. Yury Kukuev, First Deputy, Ministry of Natural Resources in Moscow in September, Mr. Kukuev agreed to chair the Council and suggested local representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources also serve as Advisory Council Members. During subsequent meetings, FOREST Team members discussed this idea and got favorable responses with local Krai or Oblast representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The first task of the Advisory Council is to review and provide input to the draft workplan. A two-day meeting has been organized to be held in Khabarovsk October 24 and 25. Invitees include:

Yury Kukuev, First Deputy Minister for Natural Resources; Alexandr Levintal, Khabarovskii Krai Economic Committee Chairperson; Vladimir Kolomytsev, Deputy Head, Department for Natural Resources, Khabarovskii Krai; Anatoly Prikhodko, Deputy Head, Department for Natural Resources, Primorski Krai; Gennady Chekurdaev, Head, Forestry Administration, Sakhalinskaya Oblast; Vladimir Chekhov; Deputy Chairperson, Committee for Natural Resources, Irkutskaya Oblast/Head, Irkutskaya Oblast Forestry Administration; Vladimir Vekshin, Chairperson, Krasnoyarskii Krai Forest Committee; Konstantin Raspopin, Chairperson, Krasnoyarskii Krai Forest Committee; Carol Pierstorff, USAID; Lyudmila Vikhrova, USAID; Steve Bulkin, U.S. Forest Service; and Andrey Kushlin, World Bank.

### **III. Overall Project**

#### **A. Major Activities**

Initially coordination meetings for the FOREST Project were held at Winrock's Arlington Office prior to the team's travel to Russia. Three initial meetings were held to define the requirements of the Inception plan, review project results and indicators, and enhance team-building. The first was a preliminary meeting to assemble the team (representatives from Winrock, Chemonics and the Heron Group) to briefly discuss the workplan and the upcoming trip to Russia. The second meeting brought in Dr. Kathy Parker from the Heron Group to discuss how the FOREST Project fits into USAID/Russia's overall strategy at this time and identified key areas where contributions from implementation of FOREST could make progress toward achievement of higher-level results. The group also briefly discussed some issues-related criteria for selection of strong indicators (e.g., objective, uni-dimensional, quantifiable, qualitative, disaggregated). Winrock hosted a meeting with United States Forest Service (USFS) international programs staff (Alex Moad, Wayne Bushnell, and Whetten Read) to discuss their ongoing work in Russia and identify possible areas of collaboration between FOREST and USFS. Winrock also organized a meeting with Dan Cao and William Eichbaum of the World Wildlife Fund – U.S. to discuss their programs in the RFE.

The FOREST Project start up Team arrived in Russia the first week of September to conduct general introductory meetings and specific meetings with potential partners, collaborators and advisory council members. A complete list of the start up Team Members and meetings that were conducted during this period is attached in Appendix A. The start up team focused on meeting individuals and organizations to 1) introduce the project and the FOREST Team to government officials in Moscow, Khabarovsk, Krasnoyarsk, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk and Vladivostok, 2) obtain more detailed information about projects and organizations working in the area of forestry, and explore how the overall FOREST Project may collaborate with ongoing activities and 3) identify organizations and individuals working on the specific technical components who could be partners or collaborators on the project.

The team arrived first in Moscow for meetings scheduled with Lyudmila Vikhrova and Carol Pierstorff at USAID to review the inception plan. Changes in the inception plan are reflected in the activities and meetings conducted. In addition, the FOREST Team

reviewed general indicators for the four technical components. Additional introductory meetings were conducted with The Ministry of Natural Resources, former Federal Forest Service, World Bank, World Wildlife Fund, IUCN, and Institute for Sustainable Communities.

After Moscow, the FOREST Team proceeded to Khabarovsk, Krasnoyarsk, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk and Vladivostok. In each location, Team members had introductory meetings with the local Krai or Oblast Administration Officials, local representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources, research institutes, and other donor funded project staff. Specific meetings for each technical component were conducted and are described below. A complete list of meetings is attached in Appendix A.

#### **IV. Four Technical Components**

##### **A. Forest Fire Prevention**

###### **1. Major Activities**

The Forest Fire Prevention start up team consisted of Chemonics's staff, Spike Millington, Natural Resources Specialist Bob Kern, Communications Specialist and John Woods, Communications Specialist. Members of the team traveled to Moscow and Khabarovsk in Russia and Woods attended the Fire Awareness Training in Tucson Arizona. Carol Stoney, Interim Project Manager represented the Forest Fire Prevention component during her trip to Krasnoyarsk. Similarly, Dave Gibson, and Erin Hughes represented the entire project during their respective trips to Vladivostok and Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk.

The Component 1 Forest Fire Protection Team focused on identifying organizations with which to partner, collaborate and to initiate some of the basic research activities to begin this component. They have identified potential production companies, advertising agencies, mass media outlets, and social research services that could assist in campaign in Khabarovsk and Moscow.

The team was briefed by the World Wildlife Fund on the national-level fire prevention awareness strategy they had developed with USAID funding. Members of the team also met with US Forest Service representative in the United States to discuss areas of cooperation and learn more about their efforts. They were briefed on the project, and discussed potential roles in future project. John Woods went to Arizona and met with Russian study tour group on fire prevention awareness, funded by USAID. He obtained draft copies of individual action plans. Based on these meetings, the Fire Prevention Team developed a draft workplan for component 1. Chemonics also hired two staff to begin collecting data and to conduct basic research required to develop the public awareness campaigns. The team initiated research to identify major groups responsible for starting forest fires, and reasons for forest fires, with a view to developing preliminary communications messages

###### **2. Key Issues**

The key issues identified by the Fire Prevention Component are:

- a. How to build on the preliminary communications strategy, logo and slogan, developed by WWF. Additional audience research may be indicated. If the strategy has been approved at the federal level, what are the implications should substantial revision be required?
- b. Ensure good communication and discuss complementarity of programs with U.S. Forest Service. A good start has been made in this direction, which will be followed up in the U.S.
- c. Maintain good communications with World Bank, and review complementarities of activities with the Sustainable Forestry Pilot Project.
- d. How best to involve study group participants and other regions in Component 1.

### **3. Problems and Findings Based on Work to Date.**

There were no significant problems to report at this time.

### **4. Summary of Fire Prevention Tasks of the last Quarter**

Task	Location	Persons Involved	Status
1. Attend Initial Meetings (see Appendix B for a complete listing of meetings.	Arlington, Moscow, Khabarovsk, Krasnoyarsk	Spike Millington, Robert Kern, John Woods, Larua Slattery	Completed
2. Hire Staff	Khabarovsk	Laura Slattery, Robert Kern	2 consultants hired
3. Develop Draft Workplan	Khabarovsk, Washington	Spike Millington, Robert Kern, John Woods, Larua Slattery	Completed
4. Public Awareness and Education Programs as Tools for Preventing Forest Fires workshop	Arizona	John Woods	Completed

### **5. Level of Effort**

During the quarter (July through September) approximately 4.5 person months were spent on the Fire Prevention Component. See Appendix C for detailed break out of persons, activities and time.

## **B. Pest Management**

### **1. Major Activities**

The Pest Management start up team consisted of The Heron Group's staff, Max McFadden, Alexei Sharov and Daniel Kucera. Members of the team traveled to Moscow, Khabarovsk and Krasnoyarsk to meet with key organizations and people involved in pest

management. The Pest Management Team explored partnerships and collaborative efforts.

## **2. Key Issues**

None at this time.

## **3. Problems and Findings Based on Work to Date.**

There were no significant problems to report at this time.

## **4. Summary of Pest Management Tasks of the last Quarter**

Task	Location	Persons Involved	Status
1. Attend Initial Meetings (see Appendix B for a complete listing of meetings.	Arlington, Moscow, Khabarovsk, Krasnoyarsk	Max McFadden, Alexei Sharov and Daniel Kucera	Completed
2. Establish Collaborative Relationship with Sukachev Institute	Krasnoyarsk	Max McFadden, Carol Stoney	MOU discussed
3. Develop Draft Workplan	Khabarovsk, USA	Max McFadden, Alexei Sharov and Daniel Kucera	Completed

## **5. Level of Effort**

During the quarter (July through September), approximately 3.8 person months were spent on the Pest Management Component. See Appendix C for detailed break out of persons, activities and time.

## **E. Non Timber Forest Products and Secondary Wood Processing**

### **1. Major Activities**

The Non-Timber Forest Product and Secondary Wood Processing start-up Team consisted of Carol Stoney and Erin Hughes from Winrock and Dave Gibson from Chemonics. Members of the team traveled to Moscow, Khabarovsk, Krasnoyarsk, Yuzhno-Sakalinsk and Vladivostok.

The team focused on meeting with existing associations and private industries, to learn of the problems with associations, the major issues facing non-timber and secondary wood processing business. A list of detailed meetings is found in Appendix B.

### **2. Key Issues**

Several associations were identified and strengthening them will be the initial focus of this component. In addition, we will focus on examining issues facing both non-timber forest processing associations and secondary wood processors. These include financing, equipment, knowledge, markets, and tax laws.



### **3. Problems and Findings Based on Work to Date.**

There were no significant problems to report at this time.

### **4. Summary of NTFP and Secondary Wood Processing Tasks of the last Quarter**

Task	Location	Persons Involved	Status
1. Attend Initial Meetings (see Appendix B for a complete listing of meetings.)	Arlington, Moscow, Khabarovsk, Krasnoyarsk, Sakhalin, Vladivostok	Carol Stoney, Erin Hughes, Dave Gibson	Completed
2. Develop Draft Workplan	Khabarovsk, Washington	Carol Stoney, Erin Hughes, Dave Gibson	Completed

### **5. Level of Effort**

During the quarter (July through September), approximately 1.4 person months were spent on the Pest Management Component. See Appendix C for detailed break out of persons, activities and time.

## **D. Biomass Energy**

### **1. Major Activities**

As per Inception Plan, Russian nationals were interviewed for possible participation in Component 4, Biomass Component. Some NGOs, government entities, researchers, and finance institutions were contacted for input to Work Plan Contact was made with finance institutions to gauge their interest in providing funding for biomass projects

### **2. Key Issues**

There were no key issues.

### **3. Problems and Findings Based on Work to Date.**

There were no significant problems to report at this time.

### **4. Summary of Biomass Energy Tasks of the last Quarter**

Task	Location	Persons Involved	Status
1. Attend Initial Meetings (see Appendix B for a complete listing of meetings.)	Arlington, Moscow, Khabarovsk,	Steve McNulty, Raphael Vartanov	Completed
2. Develop Draft Workplan	Khabarovsk, USA	Steve McNulty, Raphael Vartanov	Completed

### **5. Level of Effort**

During the quarter (July through September), approximately 1.8 person months were spent on the Biomass Energy Component. See Appendix C for detailed break out of persons, activities and time.

## **V. Cross-Cutting Components**

The Cross Cutting Components, Applied Forestry Research, Forest Policy and Legal Reform and Grants/Loan Programs are designed to support the four technical components. No additional resources were used on these components during the first quarter. Individuals working on the overall project and or specific components explored these issues within the scope of their activities.

### **A. Applied Forestry Research**

The entire FOREST Start up Team meet with staff from research institutes in Moscow, Khabarovsk, and Krasnoyarsk to learn about their activities and to explore collaboration. The first forestry research will be conducted to determine the baseline indicator of each technical component.

### **B. Forest Policy and Legal Reform**

Each component staff explored how policy and legislation affected the goals of their component.

The overarching issue is the implications at the Krai level and how the new government structure of forestry in Russia will affect activities.

### **C. Grants/Loan Program**

The FOREST team met with a variety of USAID Projects in Russia that are currently implement grants or loan programs. These include the Replicated of Lessons Learned Project, Targeted Grants Project, Ecolinks Project, Ecogrant Project and Sakhalin Microcredit Program. The grants component will start the second year.